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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/618,806	07/14/2003	Mark Roby	2910	5794

7590 04/18/2005
TYCO HEALTHCARE GROUP LP
150 GLOVER AVENUE
NORWALK, CT 06856

EXAMINER

RICCI, JOHN A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3714

DATE MAILED: 04/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/618,806

Applicant(s)

ROBY ET AL.

Examiner

John Ricci

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scirica et al 5,733,293 in view of Fischer 5,031,768 (newly cited).

Scirica shows a package for a needle and suture (Figure 3A), including a base portion 66, cover 68, a needle park, a rail 74 defining a suture race 70, and an aperture 72 for passage of the suture. The cover is retained by tabs 76. However, the cover is completely removable from the base, so it may be lost or misplaced. One would recognize that it would be desirable to attach the cover to the base. For example, Fischer shows that a container for medical equipment may have a base 22, and a cover 24 attached to the base by means of a living hinge 26 (figure 2). This would be desirable in the suture package of Scirica to prevent the cover from being lost. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to attach the base and cover of Scirica by a living hinge, as suggested by Fischer.

* * * * *

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Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

* * * * *

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. .

* * * * *

This letter was prepared by Examiner John Ricci, who can be reached at:

Voice: 571-272-4429

Fax: Use 703-872-9306 for papers to be delivered directly to the mail room, like formal amendments and responses, change of address, power of attorney, petitions.

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Use 703-783-0439 for papers to be delivered directly to the Examiner, like informal or proposed responses for discussion, or notes in preparation for an interview.

Response by Fax is encouraged to reduce mail processing time. Please don't send duplicate papers by mail and Fax.

My supervisor is Derris Banks, 571-272-4419.

PTO main switchboard: 800-786-9199.

Visit our Web site at www.uspto.gov.



**JOHN RICCI
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 3714**